

City of Socorro

111 School of Mines Road
Socorro, New Mexico 87801

Phone (575) 835-0240 www.socorronm.gov



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5 Things to Do in Socorro in 2010:

1. Run for Office

Here is your chance to take an active role and be part of the solution: January 5 is the filing day for the city election. Four seats will be open on the City Council, or you might want to run for Mayor. To be eligible to run you must be a registered voter living in the Socorro City limits. On Tuesday, January 5, you must go to City Hall where City Clerk Pat Salome will give you the paperwork. You must bring with you a certified copy of your voter registration showing your residential address which you can obtain from the County Clerk. There are no filing fees and the election is non-partisan. If you can't make it to City Hall on January 5, drop in earlier to authorize someone you choose to file for you.

The election will take place March 2. Campaigning can begin immediately. Yard signs are limited to 32 square feet and can be displayed 45 days prior to the election. They must be removed within 5 days after the election.

You may file for any one of the 4 seats on the Council regardless of your address. It's rumored that incumbents will be filing for 3 of the seats and the fourth is wide open. If you're looking for an even greater challenge, consider running for Mayor! It's a great opportunity to make a difference in our community.

2. Pay your utility bill online

Sometimes, especially in the winter when it's cold outside and maybe stormy and icy, it just isn't convenient to drive to town to pay your utility bill, or maybe you're out of stamps and

can't mail it. Now is a good time to try paying it online. It's easy to do:



Go to www.socorronm.gov and click on **Pay Utility Bill**. You'll need to set up your web account by entering your email address, a password that you choose, retype the password and click continue.

Once you are registered, you will need to enter your utility account number and your PIN (Personal Identification Number). Both of these can be found on your current utility bill that accompanies this newsletter. Once this is done, you'll be able to view your account history for the last 12 months, pay your bill, and set up a profile if you have multiple utility accounts. You will need to use your Visa or Mastercard to pay the bill online—it's a secure connection. If you have problems, you can click on UBCustomer support to email your question, or call Amanda at 835-0240.

If REMEMBERING to pay your bill is a problem, you might consider signing up for automatic bill pay. To do this, take your Mastercard or Visa or, if you want the money taken out of your bank account, a canceled or voided check, to City Hall and they'll get you set up. The money will be withdrawn from your bank account the 15th of every month or charged to your credit card on the 5th or the 20th, whichever you choose. You'll still get a bill in the mail, but you won't have to remember to pay it every month!

You can also call and use your credit card to pay your bill over the phone, or drive through the parking lot and drop it off in the convenient deposit box in front of City Hall.

Regardless of how you decide to pay your bill, you will continue to receive a paper copy in the mail. The paper copy is the only place you can see the breakdown of costs: water, gas and garbage.

All of these options make paying your city utilities easy and efficient—you never need to leave home! The drawback is that you will miss seeing the holiday and seasonal decorations Barbara masterminds and everyone helps put up. You're always welcome to drop in, even if your bills are paid.



3. Go to the movies at RioFest

January 28-30, Socorroans will have the opportunity to see some films that won't be showing at the Loma! Focusing on environmental issues, the screenings will take place at the Macey Center. For more information, see the flyer that accompanies this month's utility bill!

4. Do an art project!

Have you ever wanted to attend the February Community Arts Party but didn't have a kid to take? Then mark January 23 on your calendar and plan to attend the first Arts Party for Adults! It will be held at the Macey Center and will be an afternoon and evening of fun and creativity. From 4-7pm (for a materials fee of \$10) you can participate in hands-on art and dance workshops with local artists and crafters: paint with watercolor, create with mixed media, make cornhusk dolls, and dance, dance, dance. From 5-7pm, for an additional \$15, you can move to the

upper level of Macey for a social hour with gourmet appetizers, cash bar (one drink is included in admission), and Brazilian music by Saudade.

A silent art auction to raise money for the Performing Arts Series will conclude the evening. For more information, or to donate art from your private collection for the auction, call 835-5688.

5. Eat fresh produce!

Just a reminder that the Socorro Farmer's Market is open for business every Saturday morning beginning at 9:00 a.m. Vendors have fresh garden produce grown in greenhouses, hoop houses, cold frames and just plain in-the-garden. You'll find also jams and jellies, honey and a variety of crafts. Don't look for it in the Plaza, though—the winter market is in the Finley complex. Enter the south side of the building, across the parking lot from the Socorro Police Station.



Employee Anniversaries

Frances Cases

15 years

City Council

Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez

Gordy Hicks

Toby Jaramillo

Donald Monette

Michael Olguin, Jr.

Ernest Pargas, Jr.

Peter D. Romero

Chuck Zimmerly

Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

Pat Salome, City Clerk